

Ken Takeuchi et al. – U.S. Serial No. 10/073,999**REMARKS**

The Office Action of November 21, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claims 47-67 remain in this application.

Claims 47, 48, 50, and 55-57 have been amended.

Claims 47-67 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) over Hemink et al. Applicants traverse.

Claim 47, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

“ a first signal line connected to said first memory cell section;
a second signal line connected to said second memory cell
section, being different from said first signal line; ... ”

In contrast, according to Hemink et al., the first and second signal lines, which the Examiner indicated, are in fact the same line. They are electrically shorted together. With this structure, Hemink et al. cannot realize the action that data of a first memory cell is latched in a latch circuit while data of a second memory cell is held by the second signal line.

In FIG. 13 of Hemink et al., the first and third signal lines, which are indicated by the Examiner, are different from each other, but they are not connected to the same latch circuit. In short, FIG. 13 of Hemink et al. does not show the structural feature of the present invention that one end of the first signal line and one end of the second signal line are connected to the same latch circuit.

For the reasons above, claim 47 is structurally different from Hemink et al.

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The other independent claims and dependent claims are allowable for similar reasons.

It is believed that no fee above the extension of time fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,

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